

RECOGNIZING LOS ANGELES  
POLICE OFFICER PAUL AVILA

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2023*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Avila and his 25 years of public service and dedication to the City of Los Angeles as a Police Officer III. The calling to be a police officer is an incredibly difficult and important vocation of public service. Those who risk their lives for the good of the community are worthy of the highest respect and appreciation of our district, State, and Nation.

Paul entered the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Academy in 1998 and six months later he began his probation period in Northeast Los Angeles. Five years later, he was transferred to Southeast Los Angeles where he served for the rest of his career. Throughout his 25-year career, Paul rose through the ranks of LAPD. He trained new recruits as a field training officer, became an undercover vice investigator, and was a probation officer coordinator. In addition to his professional roles, Paul was the oldest member of his division's Baker to Vegas relay team that placed in the top 3 within the division every year.

This July, Paul is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his wife and family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Officer Paul Avila. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Los Angeles are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY  
SERVICE OF COMMAND SER-  
GEANT MAJOR CHRISTOPHER  
POCCIA DURING THE PEAK/CALF  
CANYON FIRE

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Christopher Poccia for his service to the people of San Miguel and Mora counties during the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire started on April 6, 2022, when a U.S. Forest Service prescribed burn got out of control. The fire burned 341,735 acres between April and late August in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. It was the largest wildfire in New Mexico history. In northern New Mexico many residents were displaced.

Command Sergeant Major Christopher Poccia was deployed to San Miguel and Mora counties with his National Guard unit for Task Force Wildfire. He distinguished himself as a trusted helper to community members who told me how grateful they were for his service during a time devastation and uncertainty. His kindness, positive attitude, and willingness to serve will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Every day, Christopher and his team worked at the improvised shelter. They delivered supplies, helped people to find assistance, and ventured to evacuated areas to assist those afraid to leave. He is an example of service, and service is an act of love. During his more than 90-day deployment, Christopher was away from his family. Today we also honor his wife Allison, his children Alec, Bella, and Jack, for the sacrifice they endured in his absence.

Christopher has returned to his work serving his community as a sergeant with the Albuquerque Police Department, where he is an exemplary model of leadership. At every turn he is at service to others and an example of how we can always look for the gaps where help is needed—and fill those spaces. We honor him and the other guardsmen and women of the National Guard who gave the most precious gift they had—their time—to help their neighbors during this crisis. They are heroes.

In line with the acts of service originating with the local community, President Biden signed my bill, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. This law provides \$3.95 billion in relief to victims of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history. Thanks to Command Sergeant Major Poccia, his team, and others like him, New Mexicans received the help they needed to survive and begin their journey to recovery. I thank and honor him for his selflessness dedication to service.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2023*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House has taken two important steps regarding our strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP.

And Mr. Speaker, those steps on this House Floor were overwhelmingly bipartisan.

First, we created a select committee on the strategic competition between the United States and the CCP.

Our vision of an integrated, open, free world where people can celebrate their religion, people can travel, people can trade, and that strategic competition presses the western values of Europe, The United States with the more narrow authoritarian view of the Chinese Communist Party.

Secondly, we prevented oil being released from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and that being sold to Communist China.

And today, over 320 Members of this body agreed with that, by voting yes on H.R. 22.

Now, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has played an important role in U.S. energy and national security policy for four decades.

It was created in response to the Arab oil embargo in the early 1970s, which resulted in the tripling of oil prices at the time.

Since that time, the SPR has remained a backstop for the United States in case of oil supply disruption.

And Mr. Speaker, those on the other side of the aisle talked about America becoming the largest exporting nation in the world and somehow that is a bad thing.

And that we freed our ability to export oil and gas outside the U.S. as if that were a bad thing.

It's not.

But they are two completely different issues.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is there for an emergency affecting the United States, our citizens, our households, our industry, principally in case of a Gulf hurricane or a disruption in a pipeline or in some other aspect of oil and gas disruption from war or an accident somewhere in the world.

It's not meant to be supplying oil per say to everybody besides the United States.

In just the last year, President Biden has released 180 million barrels of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, bringing it down to a 1985 level.

A four-decade low.

This is not smart economic policy or energy policy in this country.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, over 1 million barrels went to a Chinese affiliated company—at the same time China is reportedly holding its own crude reserve of over 900 million barrels.

So look, anyone with realistic knowledge and expectations in and around the debate about climate change or energy policy knows that this administration's energy policies have hurt American families, put our economy at risk, while at the same time weakening the globe's interest in fighting against climate change.

President Biden's failed policies to shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, deny permits, discourage new drilling, discourage new pipeline construction, and through his bank and securities, Environmental, Social, Governance policies, so called "ESG policies" that too has discouraged badly needed capital investment to go to our energy industry and have weakened American global leadership and our strategic benefit, as referenced by my friends on the other side of the aisle, of energy independence.

President Biden has weakened our energy independence.

Instead, the Biden Administration has doubled down, even tripled down, on these policies that have not only raise the costs on every American, but do nothing in the long run to impact climate change.

While President Biden's nanny state regulators consider outlawing your gas stove in your home, or in your kitchen, or your restaurant, Republicans on this House Floor began their first step at unleashing an "all of the above" energy strategy.

So we have to let that sink in, that a federal regulator actually considered a serious policy proposal of banning you from having a gas stove in your home or in your restaurant.

I mean everyone in America was shaking their heads this week with the preposterous nature of that new idea from the Biden Administration.

Republicans believe in an "all of the above" strategy which benefits America and benefits the globe, and we must continue to invest in order to make it through a full global transition.

First, we have to keep investing in natural gas.

We have natural gas fields across our Nation, from the West Coast to the East Coast, in the heart of Pennsylvania, and of course, in the heart of New York State, where New York State's Democratic leadership refuses to let that be brought online.